

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

September 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unemployment rates dip slightly while questions remain

In August, unadjusted unemployment rates fell for the United States (from 6.0 percent to 5.7 percent), remained stable for the state of Wisconsin (at 4.7 percent) and fell slightly in the South Central region (from 3.1 percent to 3.0 percent). On one hand, these levels are slightly high for August (see bar chart below). On the other hand, the table below and the bar chart on the second page show figures did not change a great deal from August to July and that the changes seen often follow seasonal patterns.

Workers leaving summer jobs probably caused most of the labor force reduction in Sauk and Columbia Counties. If this is so, some of the seasonal work dropoff that usually appears in October's release of September estimates may have been captured earlier this year. These reductions were not alarmingly large at any rate.

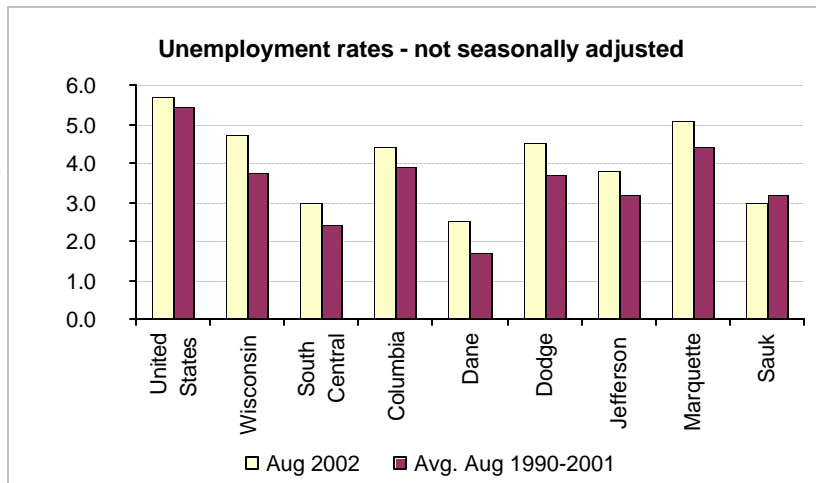
In the Augusts between 1990 and 2001, each South Central Wisconsin county has typically reduced its un-

employment rate. (See graph on second page.) This reflects the peak season for many industries relating to tourism, construction, agriculture and manufacturing.

As back-to-school season began, labor force declines were to be expected, as were boosts to retail (seen mainly in Dane County). Jefferson County's dip in retail employment may be partially explained by the

anomalous June estimate, which was an improbable 6.4 percent above the May figure and foreshadowed some reduction. In any event, Jefferson's retail figures usually reach their annual peak in June and a smaller peak in November, declining from July through September.

In general, the payroll employment estimates on the second page closely track typical changes for this time of year. Jefferson County, seems to be struggling with a tad more manufacturing softness than other South Central Wisconsin Counties; it is the only one that posted no growth in



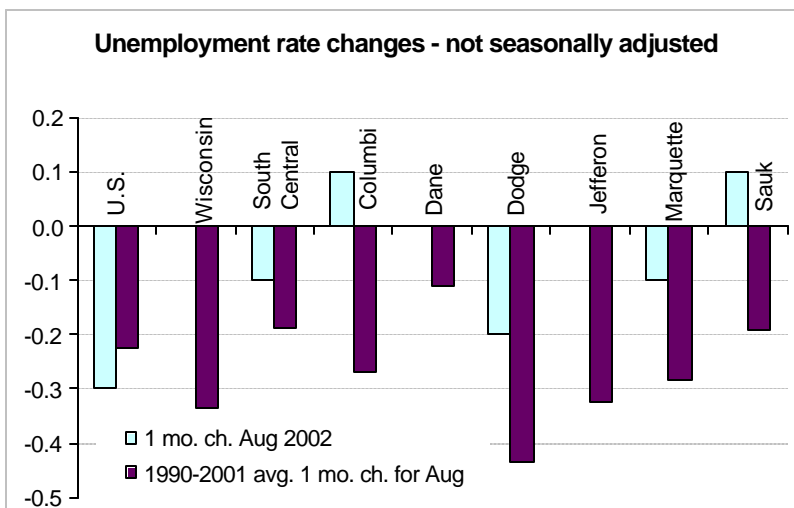
Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

August 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
August 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	3,089,600	454,700	281,700	29,800	49,500	44,800	7,700	41,100
Employed	2,942,900	440,800	274,800	28,400	47,300	43,100	7,300	39,900
Unemployed	146,800	13,800	7,000	1,310	2,200	1,710	400	1,220
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	3.0	2.5	4.4	4.5	3.8	5.1	3.0
Change From July 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	-27,000	-4,300	-2,300	-320	-440	-590	-100	-510
Employed	-27,000	-3,900	-2,100	-340	-320	-560	-90	-510
Unemployed	10	-350	-200	20	-130	-30	-10	0
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1
Change From August 2001								
Civilian Labor Force*	65,300	11,100	8,400	830	-450	800	200	1,270
Employed	43,700	8,900	6,600	650	-250	640	170	1,110
Unemployed	21,600	2,200	1,830	180	-200	160	30	160
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	-0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3

* Includes people residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers, results are rounded.

manufacturing growth in August, which is usually its second-strongest or strongest month for manufacturing employment growth. Dodge County's manufacturing rebound has not been long enough or robust enough to be called a full recovery, but it inches forward. Sauk County seems to have had better luck in this regard with more consistent manufacturing job growth since April. The test for the manufacturing sector may come with the typical winter slowdown, when we see how much of the summer's growth was seasonal fluctuation and versus cyclical recovery.

Nationally, there have been some signs that consumer confidence was flagging. High and climbing foreclosure rates could put the brakes on recent borrowing increases. If mortgage rates went up, the housing market's ascent could slow or even reverse. Wholesale inventory increases could push down orders for new goods if consumer spending stumbles. Without strong economic growth abroad, exports are not expected to offer much fuel to this recovery. Uncertainties relating to oil prices could influence consumer confidence as well.



Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

August 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
August 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	2,850,500	439,100	296,600	22,900	36,000	38,300	3,900	41,400
Construction & Mining	139,800	21,400	13,700	1,170	2,500	1,290	330	2,500
Manufacturing	577,200	69,800	30,700	6,000	12,500	11,600	1,200	7,700
Transport & Public Util.	130,000	14,800	10,300	670	1,290	1,480	80	1,030
Wholesale Trade	138,600	17,400	12,200	770	1,070	1,350	110	1,860
Retail Trade	514,400	78,000	50,900	4,700	5,100	7,600	730	8,900
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	154,600	27,600	24,200	430	810	850	120	1,190
Services	813,600	121,900	84,700	5,500	7,700	10,100	720	13,300
Government	382,300	88,200	70,000	3,600	5,100	3,900	570	5,000
Change From July 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	4,300	1,430	1,090	40	250	-20	20	50
Construction & Mining	-500	-250	-250	-20	0	0	0	30
Manufacturing	2,200	790	270	100	220	0	30	170
Transport & Public Util.	840	0	-20	10	40	-10	0	-20
Wholesale Trade	360	30	60	-10	-20	-10	0	-10
Retail Trade	2,900	410	480	10	60	-110	0	-30
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	-120	50	60	0	0	-10	0	0
Services	4,800	860	830	10	50	110	-20	-120
Government	-6,100	-450	-340	-60	-110	10	10	40
Change From August 2001								
Total jobs, all industries**	-7,500	10,000	8,300	1,150	-1,290	-250	-220	2,200
Construction & Mining	310	-1,180	-1,180	40	50	-40	-60	0
Manufacturing	-46,300	-3,300	-1,040	220	-1,500	-1,260	-20	330
Transport & Public Util.	-3,000	180	320	-80	80	-160	-10	30
Wholesale Trade	-1,840	-710	-620	-10	-50	-90	10	60
Retail Trade	6,600	2,300	1,420	0	150	290	-50	440
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	4,900	2,300	2,200	-30	-10	30	10	50
Services	27,900	9,100	6,800	610	160	770	30	780
Government	3,800	1,330	490	410	-170	210	-150	540

**Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers, results rounded.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi.

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